Le Cirque de Karakuri

からくりサーカス

15

藤田和日郎

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

SS comics

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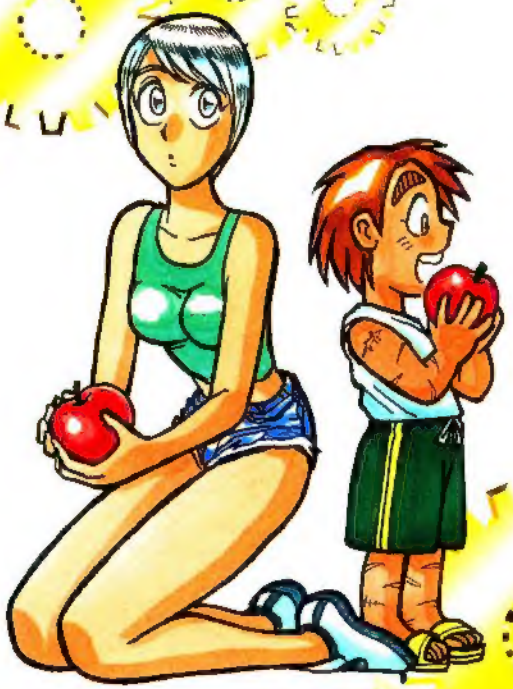

SS comics

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自動人形の本拠地「真夜中のサーカス」を追う鳴海に異変！
師父の昔話を聞くうちに、鳴海の中に眠るもう一人の意識が、
過去への、彼方への旅を始める…その男の名は白銀。
中国からプラハへ渡り、錬金術を究めんとする男の身に何が？
いま、しろがねと自動人形の、長い戦いの謎が明かされる！
ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇、運命の第15巻であります。

(久しぶりの)取材のためフランス行った 台湾編

こんな 才千は はじめてだね

台湾のサイン会に呼んでもらいました。外国でのこういう事は経験なく、「ちょっとしかいなかったらどうしよう」と思っていたのですが、たくさんの「からくりサーカス」好きの方が、迎えてくれました。みんな日本の読者と同じ目をして僕のサインを喜んでくれました。うれしかったなァ。生まれ育った国が違っても、面白いことをやろうとしている気持ちは伝わる—そんな当然なコトを感じて帰って来ました。よーし、なんかがんばっちゃうもんね。鳴海や勝、覚悟しろよ!
(え~!?という彼らの声)

藤田和日郎
KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

ブカブカ ドンドン。無限宇宙のビッグバン。曲馬団のファンファーレ。物事にゃ必ず始めが御座居ます。お待たせしました本巻は、そもそも始めのまた始め、一体如何なる経緯で、からくり歯車回りだす、この物語が流れるか、それを演じて見せましょう。過去のプラハかキュベロンか、ずずーっと昔に来て下さい。「からくりサーカス」第15巻、座長の御見物を願います。

●AD／伊波光司 ●DTP&カバーデザイン／小林美樹代、益子典子＋ベイブリッジ・スタジオ ●カバーイラスト／藤田和日郎

15

藤田和日郎

からくりサーカス

Le Cirque de Karakuri

★前巻までのあらすじ★

自動人形の移動基地「真夜中のサーカス」を追い、中国へ向かう機中、鳴海たちは自動人形に襲われる。

空飛ぶ戦場と化した旅客機で、さすがのギイたちも悪戦苦闘。血みどろの戦いの末、ギイは海へと転落。

鳴海とルシールは、墜落する旅客機を間一髪で不時着させるが、そこが仲町サーカスの興行場所だったため、辺りは大騒動。その騒動の中、しろがねと勝の二人は、鳴海らしき人物を発見。だが見失ってしまう。

一方、鳴海は目的地・中国の長江に到着。情報を得るため拳法の師・梁師父を訪ねるが、師は鳴海あての手紙を残して失踪。

早速、心あたりの村へ向かうが!?

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からくり～白金・白銀

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■藤田和日郎■

Karakuri~Bai-Jin and Bai-Yin

Act 3
Arrival

ヒヨオオオオ

からくり~白金・白銀
第3幕
到着

AND SPAZZA IN TURN FAILED TO BRING DOWN THE AIRPLANE.
ゴウン
HOWEVER, PAULMAN AND ANZELMAS FAILED EVEN WITH THEIR STUDENTS THERE TO AID THEM.
ゴウン
FLAVIO WAS A FOOL. THERE WAS NO HELPING HIS LOSS.
ギギギ

THESE SHIRO-GANE ...
WORRY ME, JUST A TRIFLE.

AND THIS EASTERNER, THE USER OF QIGONG... NARUMI, WAS IT?
ゴウン
GUY, LOVER OF THE LEGENDARY OLYMPIA.
ギギギ
THE OLDEST OF THE SHIRO-GANE, LUCILLE.

2

THE THOUGHT, AS YOU SAY, IS A TRIFLE UN-PLEASANT.
THEY MAY YET BE ABLE TO INTERFERE WITH THE PLANS WE AUTOMATA HAVE SO CAREFULLY CRAFTED...
ガロン!

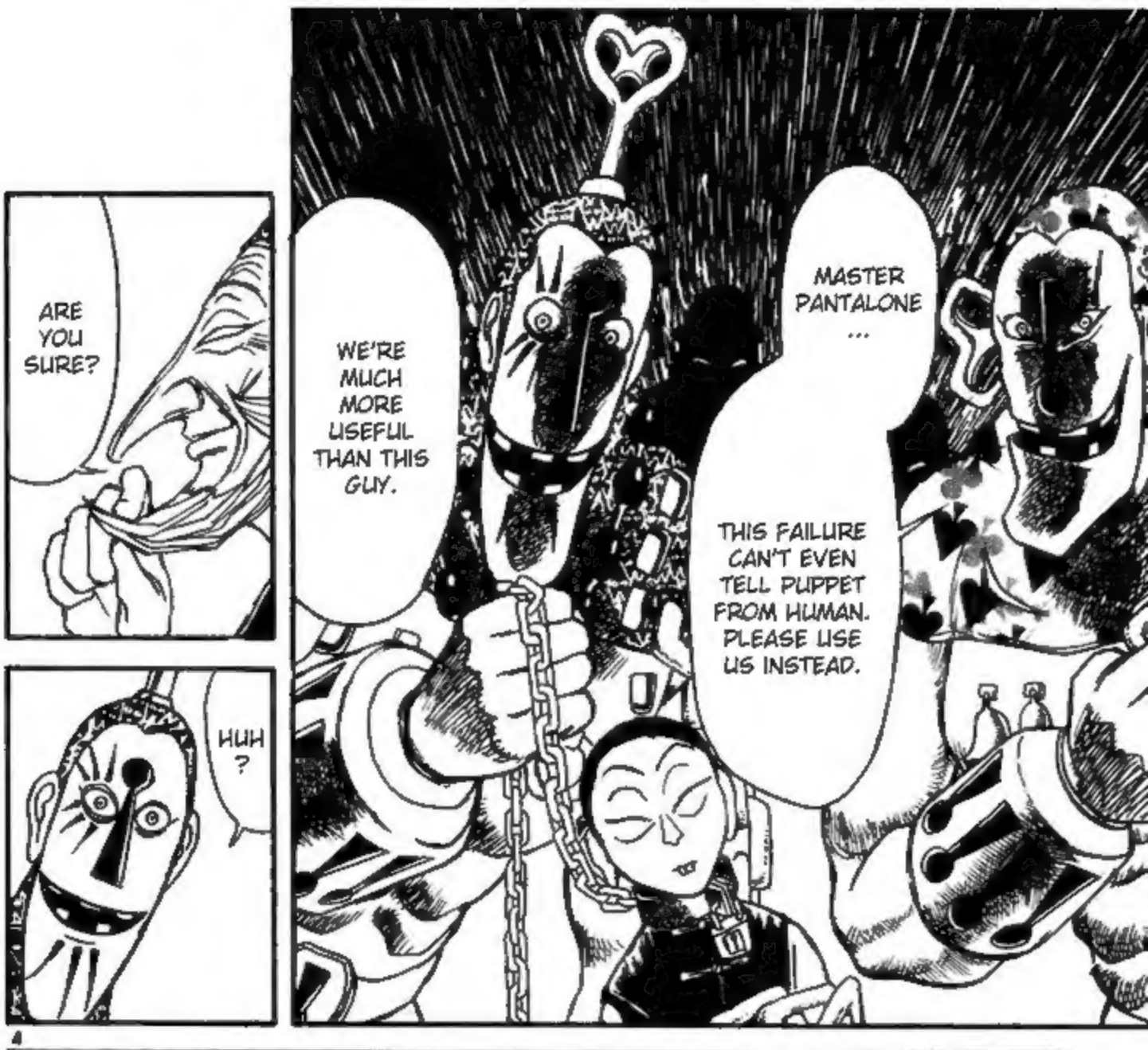
BUT IT SEEMS THEY STUB-BORNLY CLING TO LIFE ...
I WAS UNCONCERNED BY THE SHIRO-GANE, BELIEVING THEM CLOSE TO EXTINCTION ...

パタン
HMPH... IT SEEMS YOU DISAGREE, PANTALONE.
PERSONALLY, I THINK THEY PRESENT NO REAL THREAT EVEN IF WE LEAVE THEM ALONE. HOWEVER...

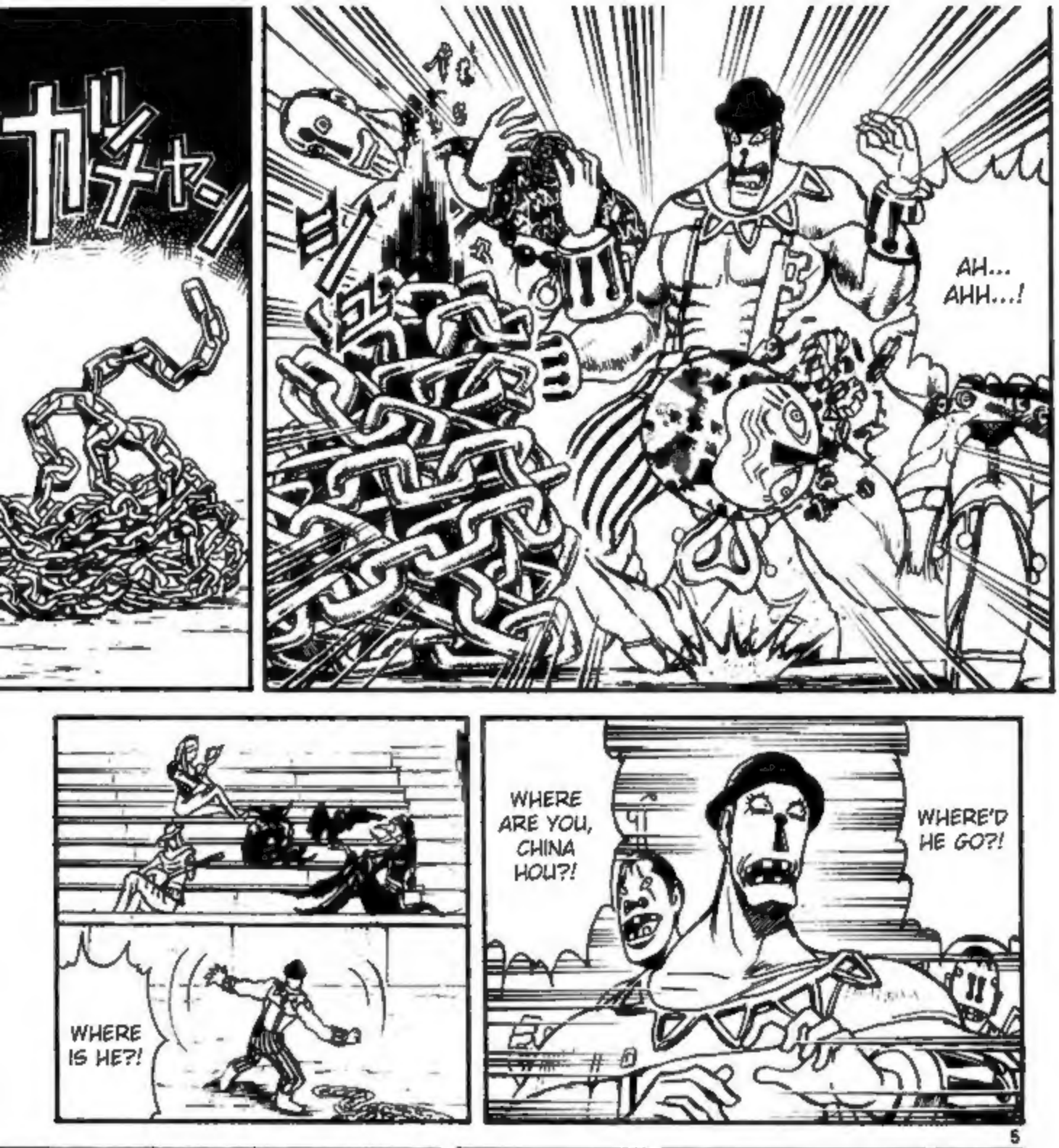
3

THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE SENT FOR CHINA HOU.

シルヤラ


ARE YOU SURE?
HUH?
WE'RE MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN THIS GUY.
MASTER PANTALONE ...
THIS FAILURE CAN'T EVEN TELL PUPPET FROM HUMAN. PLEASE USE US INSTEAD.

WHAT D—
EEZ


ガシャーン
AH...
AHH...!

WHERE IS HE?!
WHERE ARE YOU, CHINA HOU?!
WHERE'D HE GO?!

...? WHAT'S WRONG?
GA GA GA GA
HE LOVES TO SURPRISE PEOPLE.
.....
INTER-ESTING.
HMM ...
ISN'T IT?

6
WAHH...! HOW'D HE GET INSIDE HIS BODY ...?!
ALL WHO MO-CK-ED ME WILL DIE.
EVERY ONE OF YOU.
H-I-I-I-I-I!

THAT'S ENOUGH.
CHINA HOU.

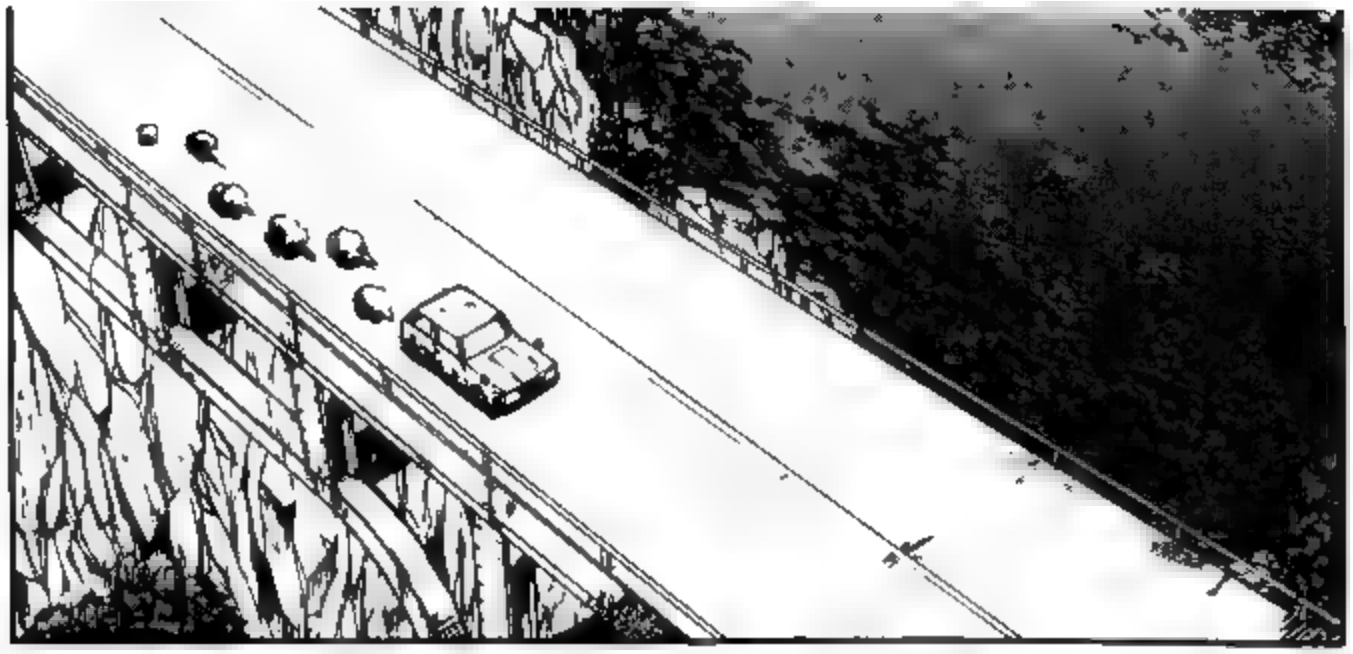
GOOD. LET'S GO.
HA-HAH!

A-A-A-AS YOU WISH, MASTER PANTALONE ...!
HA-HAH!

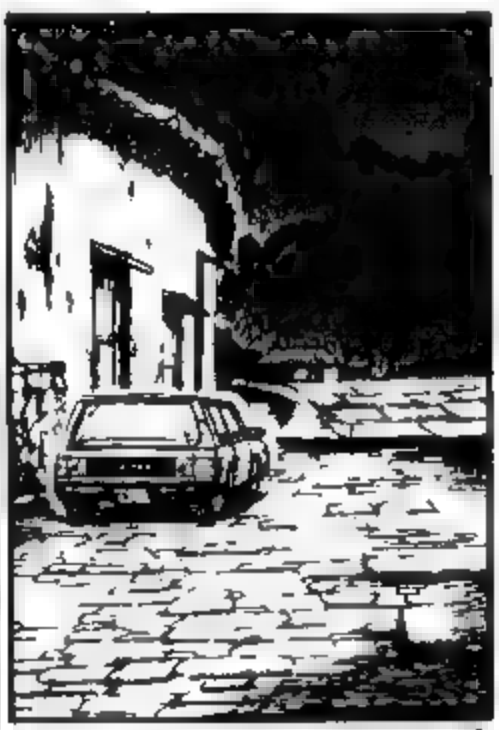
AFTER HEARING ARLECCHINO'S STORY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE STUBBORN SHIROGANE FOR MYSELF.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WAS OUT AND ABOUT.
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
OH? YOU'RE GOING TOO, PANTALONE?

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME

ヒュオオ

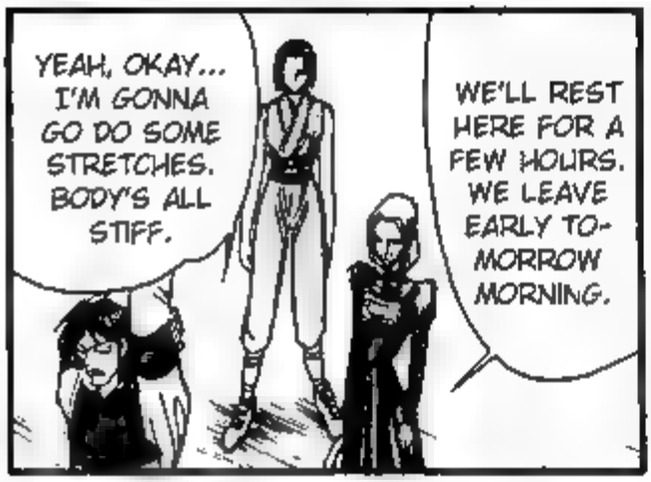


WHAT...?! MING-XIA, YOU SAID MASTER'S HOMETOWN WAS CLOSE BY!
WHY COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR SPEED, NARUMI? IF WE KEEP THIS PACE UP TOMORROW, IT SHOULD ONLY BE ANOTHER 18 HOURS.

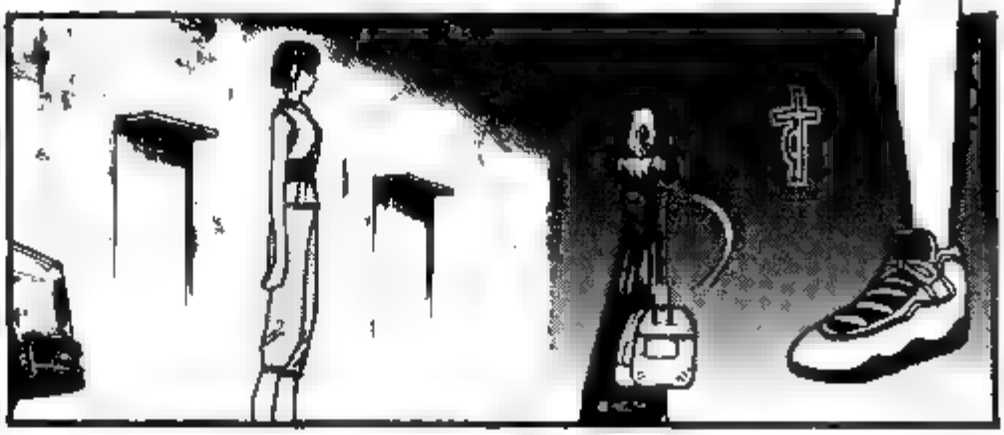


PHEW! A WHOLE DAY AND NIGHT RATTLING AROUND IN THIS BEAT-UP OLD CAR!

YEAH, YEAH.
BESIDES, THIS IS A FIRST-CLASS CAR THAT WAS LENT TO US SPECIALLY JUST SO WE COULD LOOK FOR MY DAD.


YEAH, OKAY... I'M GONNA GO DO SOME STRETCHES. BODY'S ALL STIFF.
WE'LL REST HERE FOR A FEW HOURS. WE LEAVE EARLY TO-MORROW MORNING.

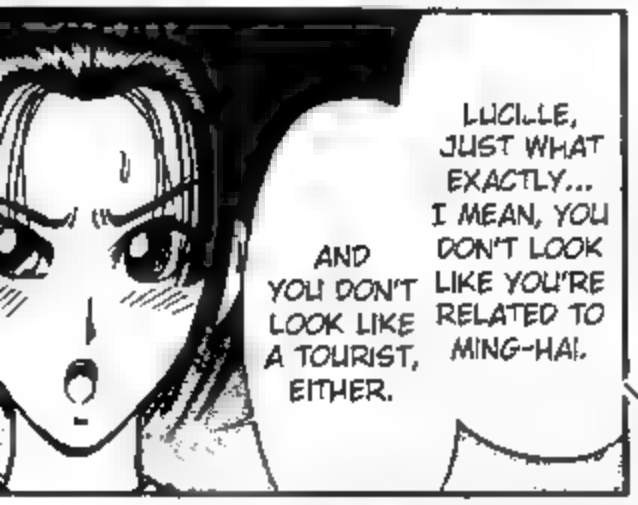
MING-HAI, YOU'VE SPENT NEARLY TEN YEARS IN CHINA.
ARE YOU STILL NOT USED TO HOW WE THINK OF DISTANCE?

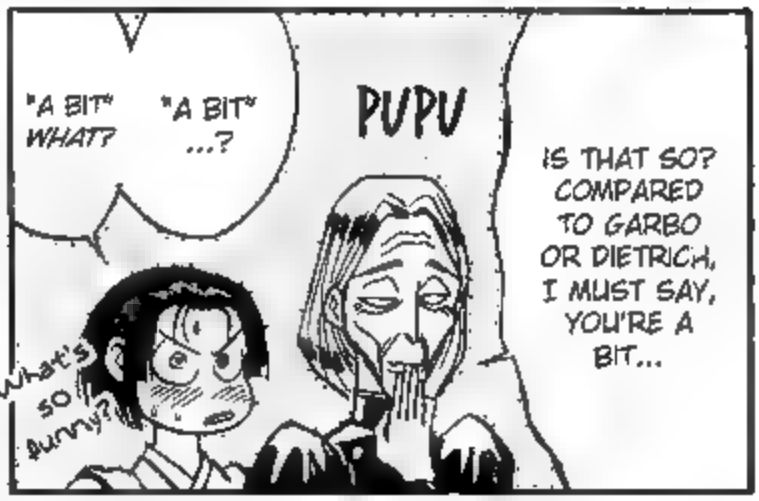


I'M NOT TOO GOOD WITH THIS WOMAN ...
OKAY, UM... LUCILLE, THEN.
LU-CILLE.
.....

U-UM, YOU KNOW ...

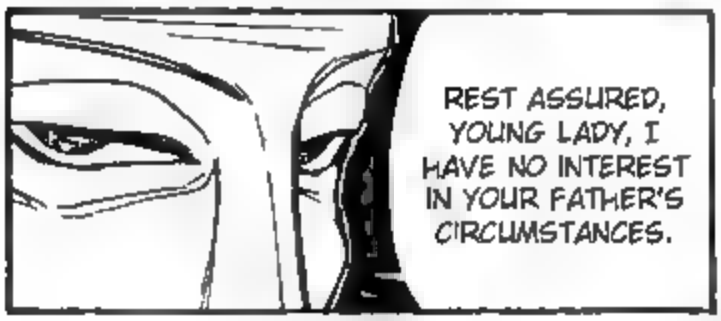
WHY...? SHE'S SO THIN AND WRINKLY, BUT SHE'S JUST AS INTENSE AS DAD...
IT'S MING-
MING-XIA. I'M AN ACTOR IN HONG KONG.
WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION, YOUNG LADY?


LUCILLE, JUST WHAT EXACTLY... I MEAN, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE RELATED TO MING-HAI.
AND YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A TOURIST, EITHER.


"A BIT" WHAT?
"A BIT" ...?
PUPU
IS THAT SO? COMPARED TO GARBO OR DIETRICH, I MUST SAY, YOU'RE A BIT...
What's so funny?

11

WELL, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
YOU DON'T WISH FOR ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU?


REST ASSURED, YOUNG LADY, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR FATHER'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

AND MY DAD WROTE MING-HAI A LETTER SAYING HE WOULD BE THERE.
WE'RE GOING TO THE VILLAGE WHERE MY DAD WAS BORN, BECAUSE HE CAME DOWN WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME AND THEN DISAPPEARED.

IT SO HAPPENS THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS ONCE PASSED THROUGH THE VILLAGE WHERE YOUR FATHER WAS BORN... THAT IS ALL.
NARUMI AND I ARE FOLLOWING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.
HUH?

THOSE PEOPLE ARE...
AND THOSE PEOPLE ARE...?

FOR THE MOMENT, NARUMI IS OCCUPIED WITH THAT. BUT HE WILL SOON REMEMBER HIS MISSION.
THEN— YOU AND MING-HAI AREN'T GOING THERE TO BRING BACK MY DAD?

12

GOOD NIGHT, NOW.
I'M DEF-INITELY, DEFINITELY NO GOOD WITH THIS OLD LADY ...!
どどどどど

SOMETHING YOU, YOUNG LADY, HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH.
ヒィィィ

ゴオオオオ

LIKE, EVERYONE SAYS, YOU'RE A GENIUS AT MARTIAL ARTS. I CAN'T BEAT YOU.
YOU'VE LOOKED AFTER ME EVER SINCE THEN...

'CAUSE I DON'T ...
YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON TO OVER-SEE MY TRAINING.
BROTHER WANG... DO YOU REALLY WANNA DO THIS?

13

BRO-THER ...
.....

THE ONE MASTER RECOGNIZES AS A GENIUS IS YOU, MING-HAI! AND IN THEIR HEARTS, EVERYONE AGREES!
I KNOW THAT VERY WELL!

MASTER'S NEVER THOUGHT OF ME AS A GENIUS. OR AS ANYTHING AT ALL.
HUH?
NO ...

AND NOW YOU JUST COME WALTZING BACK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED! HAVE YOU GIVEN ONE THOUGHT TO WHAT YOU DID TO MASTER?!
I'M SURE YOU SPARED NO EXPENSE GETTING YOURSELF CURED BACK THERE!
DESPITE ALL THE HOPES MASTER HAD FOR YOU, YOU JUST GAVE HIM YOUR SICKNESS AND WENT BACK TO JAPAN!
AND DESPITE THAT ...!

WHAT IS IT?! WHAT WERE YOU ABOUT TO SAY?!
...MASTER WROTE THAT LETTER TO ME ALONE... I CAN'T SAY IT...!

NARUMI... I WILL TELL ONLY YOU...
BROTHER WANG... OUR MASTER WAS THE ONE WHO WAS...

I'LL GIVE YOU A BEATING AS YOUR SENIOR PUPIL!!
LET'S FIGHT, THEN!

NOTHING... IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, BROTHER WANG...

ガガガ
THAT'S ...
GO AHEAD, THEN.
I WON'T ...
FIGHT BACK ...
EXACTLY THE ATTITUDE I HATE!!

THEN THE HEAVENS WILL JUDGE YOU AND GRANT YOU VICTORY!!
IF BY SOME CHANCE YOU ARE INNOCENT ...
COME ON AND FIGHT, MING-HAI!

ドカ
ミシュウ

H-HE... STOPPED THE SMASHING FIST I PUT MY WHOLE BODY INTO?!
BROTHER WANG...
THE HEAVENS DO NOT PASS JUDGMENT ON US.

WHA... WHAT ...?
IF THE HEAVENS WOULD PUNISH ME FOR MAKING OUR MASTER SICK...
WHO DELIBERATELY INFECT KIDS WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME?
THEN WHY HAVE THEY DONE NOTHING TO THE MONSTERS ...

LET'S GO, BROTHER. I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT ...
TCH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ゴー
ト
THAT'S DAD'S VILLAGE!
LOOK! THERE IT IS!
ドクン
ドクン
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT...
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
NO...
I KNOW THIS PLACE!
I...

THESE MEMORIES AREN'T MINE!!
NO... THESE...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

pg. 9: In the original, China Hou speaks in broken Japanese that I felt did not need to be recreated in English.

pg 14: Besides omitting her family name, Ming-Xia uses katakana (ミンシャ) instead of hanzi (明霞) in her given name.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.